

Q1
attached to a lower sliding portion, or runner 3, by spacers 2. The deck 1 may be covered, at least partially, by a foam 14 or other grip enhancing material. The foam 14 may be a relatively soft closed cell foam or other material that helps keep a rider's feet in place on the deck 1. The foam 14 may also include other features, such as a sticky adhesive, to help keep the rider's feet on the deck 1. Although in this illustrative embodiment the snowdeck does not include bindings or any other suitable device to physically attach one or more of the rider's feet to the deck 1, bindings, straps or other devices may be used to securely fasten the rider's feet. The snowdeck may also include a leash, tether, rigid handle (similar to that on a scooter) (not shown) attached to the deck 1 or other portion of the snowdeck. The rider may hold the leash, handle or other device to help maintain balance on the snowdeck or to pull the snowdeck while walking. Alternately, the deck 1 may not include any additional features to help keep a rider's feet on the deck 1, i.e., no foam 14, bindings, handle, leash, skid-resistant material, sticky adhesive, etc.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 49-51.

Please amend claims 1-14, 16-45, and 48.

Please add new claims 52-99.

Q2
1. (Amended) A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:

a runner having first and second upturned ends and an intermediate portion between the upturned ends, the runner having an overall length of at most 45 inches;

a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having a front to back direction and an upper surface that supports a rider; and

a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that the deck is restrained from pivoting relative to the runner about an axis running in the front to back direction;

wherein the runner and the deck are constructed and arranged to allow riding with both the first upturned end of the runner forward and the second upturned end of the runner forward.

2. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to provide equivalent riding performance with the first runner end forward and the second runner end forward.

3. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the upper surface of the deck includes a portion that is concave in an edge-to-edge direction.

4. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck includes upturned longitudinal ends.

5. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck includes uplifted lateral edges that are positioned vertically farther away from the runner than a central portion of the deck.

6. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein an angle formed between a plane of a bottom surface of the runner and a line extending between a lower edge of the runner and a lateral edge of the deck is between 30 and 70 degrees.

7. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the upper surface of the deck is arranged for a gripping surface.

8. (Amended) The device of claim 21, further comprising a foam material secured to at least one portion of the upper surface of the deck.

9. (Amended) The device of claim 21, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the first upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length, and the second spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the second

upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length.

10. (Amended) The device of claim 21, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned nearer the first upturned end of the runner and a second spacer is positioned nearer a second upturned end of the runner, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first and second spacers are separated longitudinally by a distance equal to approximately zero to three-fifths the overall length of the runner.

11. (Amended) The device of claim 21, comprising two spacers, wherein the two spacers are longitudinally separated from each other and attach the runner and the deck together, and a portion of the runner between the spacers is free to flex relative to the deck.

12. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.

13. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein at least one of the first and second upturned ends of the runner extends beyond a corresponding end of the deck.

14. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner is longer than the deck and the first and second upturned ends of the runner extend beyond corresponding ends of the deck.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the first and second upturned ends are free to move relative to the deck.

16. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner has a width that is approximately 0.4 to 0.8 times a width of the deck, and the deck has a width between 7 and 15 inches.

17. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1 to 8.375 inches.

18. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner has a sidecut.
19. (Amended) The device of claim 21, comprising two spacers that are longitudinally displaced and have a same height, wherein the runner and the deck are secured together by the two longitudinally displaced spacers.
20. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner is equally spaced vertically from the deck along the intermediate portion of the runner.
21. (Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow one of relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction and relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.
22. (Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein at least one of the deck and the runner are directly secured to the spacer.
23. (Amended) A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:
- a runner having first and second upturned ends, an intermediate portion between the upturned ends, and an overall length;
 - a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having a front to back direction, an upper surface that supports a rider, and an overall length; and
 - a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that the deck is restrained from pivoting relative to the runner about an axis running in the front to back direction;
- wherein the runner and the deck are constructed and arranged to allow riding with both the first upturned end of the runner forward and the second upturned end of the runner forward, and wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 13 inches.

24. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to provide equivalent riding performance with the first runner end forward and the second runner end forward.

25. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the upper surface of the deck includes a portion that is concave in an edge-to-edge direction.

26. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck includes upturned longitudinal ends.

27. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck includes uplifted lateral edges that are positioned vertically farther away from the runner than a central portion of the deck.

28. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein an angle formed between a plane of a bottom surface of the runner and a line extending between a lower edge of the runner and a lateral edge of the deck is between 30 and 70 degrees.

29. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the upper surface of the deck is arranged for a gripping surface.

30. (Amended) The device of claim 44, further comprising a foam material secured to at least one portion of the upper surface of the deck.

31. (Amended) The device of claim 44, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the first upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length of the runner, and the second spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the second upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length of the runner.

32. (Amended) The device of claim 44, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned nearer the first upturned end of the runner and a second spacer is positioned nearer a second upturned end of the runner, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first and second spacers are separated longitudinally by a distance equal to approximately zero to three-fifths the overall length of the runner.

33. (Amended) The device of claim 32, wherein a portion of the runner between the spacers is free to flex relative to the deck.

34. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.

35. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein at least one of the first and second upturned ends of the runner extends beyond a corresponding end of the deck.

36. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner is longer than the deck and the first and second upturned ends of the runner extend beyond corresponding ends of the deck.

37. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the first and second upturned ends are free to move relative to the deck.

38. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner has a width that is approximately 0.4 to 0.8 times a width of the deck, and the deck has a width of approximately 7 and 15 inches.

39. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1 to 8.375 inches.

40. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner has a sidecut.

41. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein a portion of the deck is wider than a widest portion of the runner.

42. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner is equally spaced vertically from the deck along the intermediate portion of the runner.

43. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein one of the runner and the deck has a length of between approximately 25 and 45 inches.

44. (Amended) The device of claim 23, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow one of relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction and relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

45. (Amended) The device of claim 44, wherein at least one of the deck and the runner are directly secured to the spacer.

48. (Amended) The device of claim 46, wherein the at least one upturned end contacts the deck.

Please add new claims 52-99 as follows:

52. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower surface of the runner near the runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near the deck attachment position.

53. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction.

54. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.
55. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck is longer than the runner.
56. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck is constructed and arranged to support both feet of a rider.
57. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck has no foot bindings to secure a rider's feet to the deck.
58. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 40 inches.
59. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 35 inches.
60. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 10 inches.
61. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 5 inches.
62. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the overall deck length to the overall runner length is at least 0.75.
63. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein one of the first and second upturned runner ends contacts the deck.

64. (New) The device of claim 23, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower surface of the runner near a runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near a deck attachment position.

65. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction.

66. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

67. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck is longer than the runner.

68. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck is constructed and arranged to support both feet of a rider.

69. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck has no foot bindings to secure a rider's feet to the deck.

70. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 40 inches.

71. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 35 inches.

72. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 10 inches.

73. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 5 inches.

74. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the ratio of the overall deck length to the overall runner length is at least 0.75.

75. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein one of the first and second upturned runner ends contacts the deck.

76. (New) A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:
a runner having first and second upturned ends, an intermediate portion between the upturned ends, and an overall length;

a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having a front to back direction, an upper surface that supports a rider, and an overall length; and

a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that the deck is restrained from pivoting relative to the runner about an axis running in the front to back direction;

wherein the runner and the deck are constructed and arranged to allow riding with both the first upturned end of the runner forward and the second upturned end of the runner forward, and wherein the ratio of the overall deck length to the overall runner length is at least 0.75.

77. (New) The device of claim 76, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower surface of the runner near the runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near the deck attachment position.

78. (New) The device of claim 76, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow one of relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction, and relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

79. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to provide equivalent riding performance with the first runner end forward and the second runner end forward.

80. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the upper surface of the deck includes a portion that is concave in an edge-to-edge direction.

81. (New) The device of claim 78, further comprising a foam material secured to at least one portion of the upper surface of the deck.

82. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the first upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length of the runner, and the second spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the second upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length of the runner.

83. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned nearer the first upturned end of the runner and a second spacer is positioned nearer a second upturned end of the runner, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first and second spacers are separated longitudinally by a distance equal to approximately zero to three-fifths the overall length of the runner.

84. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising two spacers, wherein the two spacers are longitudinally separated from each other and attach the runner and the deck together, and a portion of the runner between the spacers is free to flex relative to the deck.

85. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.

86. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has a width that is approximately 0.4 to 0.8 times a width of the deck, and the deck has a width between 7 and 15 inches.
87. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1 to 8.375 inches.
88. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has a sidecut.
89. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising two spacers that are longitudinally displaced and have a same height, wherein the runner and the deck are secured together by the two longitudinally displaced spacers.
90. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction.
91. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.
92. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the deck is longer than the runner.
93. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the deck is constructed and arranged to support both feet of a rider.
94. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the deck has no foot bindings to secure a rider's feet to the deck.
95. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 40 inches.